

as a proud memorial to her son. It is my reminder of lives that ended and a task that does not end. I will not forget this wound to our country and those who inflicted it. I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people.

The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain. Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them.

Fellow citizens, we'll meet violence with patient justice, assured of the rightness of our cause and confident of the victories to come. In all that lies before us, may God grant us wisdom, and may He watch over the United States of America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Gov. George Pataki of New York; and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York City.

Proclamation 7469—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2001

September 21, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The noble ideals that became our Nation's constitutional foundation were formed over two centuries ago in the hearts of courageous patriots who risked their lives in the name of liberty and justice. Throughout our history, American patriots have risen to answer the call when the enemies of freedom have jeopardized our liberties. Our military history is replete with heroes who put love of country above their own well-being. In answering the call to defend our ideals, generations of brave Americans have left home and family to protect our great Nation, some never to return.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is notably significant for many American families. It reminds us of the men and women who withstood great hardship while impris-

oned by our Nation's enemies; and it reminds us of those still missing, loved ones lost at war but whose fate is not yet fully known. We will not forget these patriots who were willing to give their all to preserve and protect our freedoms.

Nearly 50,000 former POWs live among us, including those held captive during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, throughout the Cold War era, and during Operation Desert Storm. We owe an incalculable debt of gratitude to these quiet heroes who displayed great honor and indomitable wills and who sacrificed so much for our Nation.

To the families of those who are still missing, we renew our unwavering commitment and determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting for them, including their recovery or repatriation and the identification of the remains of those who have died.

On September 21, 2001, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia will be flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, U.S. Military installations, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country. This observance will serve as a powerful reminder to all Americans that we will always keep faith with those who served our Nation with honor, integrity, and great sacrifice, remembering those still missing and honoring those who were imprisoned during war.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2001, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join me in honoring former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity and in renewing our commitment to those still missing in action. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 22, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Camp David, MD. Also in the morning, he had telephone conversations with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and President Vicente Fox of Mexico concerning cooperation against terrorism.

September 16

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India.

September 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Nuhayyan Zayid of the United Arab Emirates concerning cooperation against terrorism. He then met with his National Security Council concerning the U.S. response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. Later, the President went to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and later returned to the White House.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Islamic Center of Washington, and later returned to the White House.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom for a meeting and a working dinner on September 20.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar to Washington for a working visit on October 4.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jacques Chirac of France for a meeting and a private working dinner on September 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michelle Van Cleave to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom: Richard D. Land, William Francis Murphy, and Shirin Raziuddin Tahir-Kheli.

September 18

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil, and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada concerning the terrorist attacks. Also in the morning, he met with his National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey Shane to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrew S. Natsios as Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance.

The President announced his intention to designate Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to be the U.S. Representative to the 45th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The White House announced that the President made additional assistance available to New York by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for all categories of public assistance as a result of the September 11 fires and explosions.

September 19

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea and President